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# SERVICE NEWS



ISSUED FOR THE STAFF OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE U. S. D. A. NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

July 22, 1941

No. 20



Talking with SCS men and women in Washington and in the field, and reading their letters, we get the idea that a goodly number are straining at the leash to do something tangible about defense. There seems to be a surge of desire to make some measurable contribution. That's only natural and it's typically American, but for the time being many of us will be making our best contribution along lines that cannot be readily measured in terms of yards, tons, dollars, or dozens. All of us cannot suddenly start making airplanes, or tanks; and neither can we all suddenly undertake to collect aluminum, or sell defense bonds, or knit sweaters. The intangibles are equally important: things like speaking up for democracy, and being well informed, and helping to maintain a strong morale among your friends and neighbors and the people you come in contact with in your daily work. This may sound completely unglamorous, but we err if we underestimate its importance.

Not the least among the things we in the SCS can do is to give some attention to leadership in the field of soil and water conservation. Harry Reddick, our regional conservator in the Pacific Southwest, says that many or most of us will make our greatest contribution to national

defense by staying with the SCS and making the conservation program more efficient. The conservation program, he says, is inescapably important to our national strength in either peace or war, and capable, trained leadership in conservation is more essential now than ever before.

Speaking before a meeting of Friends of the Land in Columbus, Ohio, last Friday (7-18-41) Dr. Bennett declared that "The defense program has accentuated a responsibility which I am afraid we, as conservation leaders, have overlooked. I am referring to the new blood we must some day call upon; the young men who soon must assume the conservation leadership. Where are these young men? What are we doing to develop them? What are we doing to encourage them to assume the roles of leadership in America's conservation work of tomorrow?

"I do not believe we can rely on blind faith that they will somehow automatically appear. The Soil Conservation Service, I know, has lost some of its outstanding young men.....We may delude ourselves if we think we can make conservation an attractive field for able young men on moral or patriotic grounds alone. Conservation leadership is a responsible leadership worthy of the best talents available, and we should do our best to encourage public recognition of this point of view."

Ross Davies, our state coordinator in South Dakota, and others at a recent conference in Denver, pointed out the possibilities of developing the potential conservation leadership of supervisors and  
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U. S. Dept. of Agric.  
South Building  
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## ABOUT DEFENSE

OPM has recommended to the War Department immediate construction of eight aluminum plants with a combined capacity of 600 million pounds annually. The increase in aluminum production, which will be financed by the Government, will raise the U. S. yearly output to 1 billion 400 million pounds. Ample power has been assured by a survey conducted by the Federal Power Commission and the OPM Power Section.

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The scrap aluminum campaign is expected to produce 20 million pounds of aluminum.

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OPM Associate Director Hillman has called attention to the success of the training-within-industry program which, he said, has forestalled threatened skilled labor shortages in defense industries. To date 892 defense contract holders, employing 1,532,000 workmen, have installed TWI programs in their plants

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A new method of making evaporated milk to enable processors to put 25 percent more milk solids in the standard can or case, and thus save valuable shipping space as well as considerable quantities of tin for defense uses, has been perfected by Drs. B. H. Webb and R. W. Bell of the Bureau of Plant Industry, USDA.

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The Navy Department has announced that estimated provision requirements to feed the enlisted men of the Navy for the coming fiscal year call for 678,823,100 pounds of various types of food, 12,168,000 dozen eggs, and 1,419,600 gallons of oils, sauces and vinegar.

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Since January 1, 1940 the Navy has ordered construction of 2,831 vessels at a cost of \$7,234,262,178

As a part of the Nation's "Good Neighbor" policy, the USDA has opened the in-service training program of the REA to a group of eight young engineers from as many Latin-American republics. For a year these young men, working with 32 junior engineering trainees recruited from State colleges and universities of this country, will make an intensive study of the Department's rural electrification program.

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A schedule establishing ceiling prices on six leading types of cotton cloth (grey goods) has been issued by Price Administrator Henderson. The price ceilings established are generally about 15 percent below current levels. It is pointed out, however, that during the past 12 months prices of grey goods have risen sharply, the average increase amounting to 68 percent.

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Work on the infantry parade ground at Camp Roberts, Calif., believed to be one of the largest in the U. S., is almost completed. The ground is 4,200 by 1,400 feet. Allowing 3 square feet for each man, the ground could accommodate every man in the U. S. Army.

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Information concerning the nation's supply of agricultural products and available farm labor, factors of vital importance to the defense program, is being compiled by the WPA for use by the Army, Navy and Defense Commission. Analysis of these farm data is being sponsored by the USDA and is expected to aid draft boards in selecting trainees from agricultural areas.

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The number of Army nurses has increased from 942 a year ago to more than 5,000, and it is expected to exceed 8,000 by the end of the year.

## HE SAYS CONSERVATION PAYS -- AND PROVES IT

An average value of from \$15 to \$20 per acre per year has been attributed to the erosion control work done on his farm by William Richards, Connecticut-Rhode Island truck farmer, who normally grows more than 207 acres of vegetables.

Richards estimated the worth of his terraces and other measures in a letter written to State Coordinator John Brennenman at Rockville, Conn. On the basis of the rental value alone of land in his part of the country, Richards says, the control work is worth \$10 an acre. He pays \$15 an acre rental on some 50 acres, which he found he could sub-rent as pasture, without any control measures, for only \$5

Another way to figure it, Richards says, is this: He has control measures on 39 acres. If he had not had these measures, he could have sub-rented the land for only \$5 an acre. As it was, the average profit per acre has been around \$40 per acre. That figure includes gains and losses, good and bad years even the hurricane year. Keep in mind that the control work cost only around \$10 an acre, and that maintenance cost is negligible since they plow the land anyhow and simply plow on the contour.

If he hadn't applied measures on the 39 acres but had rented them out for pasture at \$5, and rented other land farther away to replace them, his fertilizer cost per acre would be \$10 more the first year on the new land, plus the \$10 rent differential on the sub-rented land, plus \$12 per acre cost for the extra time required for moving men and equipment to and from the more distant tracts. This last is an actual figure, he says. Thus his production costs per acre would be raised \$32 if he had not applied conservation practices on those 39 acres. And \$32 additional cost would have cut a big hole in that \$40 per acre profit.

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## KNITTING FOR DEFENSE IN THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

It's "all-out" for defense in the Pacific Southwest Region. Among the many defense activities there is the busy Red Cross chapter made up of wives of regional staff members

There are 34 members enrolled with Mrs. Charles B. Ahlson as president. The group was organized by Mrs. Jack Martin in June 1940. The production schedule to date shows 360 garments completed and turned over to the Red Cross.

### WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (Continued from page 1)

farmers within soil conservation districts. Someone else at the meeting, whose name slips our mind at the moment, called attention to the latent leadership possibilities among enrollees in the conservation CCC camps.

The point is that men and women who are now entrusted with positions of leadership in the organization could well devote some thought to tomorrow's leaders and where they are to come from. Young men and women who feel the challenge of America's conservation job, and who see in this job a desirable outlet for their talents and abilities, would do well to remember tomorrow's inevitable demand for leadership and shape their thoughts and work accordingly.

And outside of the SCS--in the colleges and universities, on the farms, and elsewhere--there are able men and women who might readily become conservation engineers instead of electrical engineers, or conservation teachers instead of botany teachers, if the opportunities and potentialities of conservation work were made known to them.

This, too, is a part of national defense.

## MORE SCS MEN REPORT FOR MILITARY SERVICE

Roll calls at camps find more and more of the SCS men reporting for duty. Here is the latest list of employees who have recently been granted military furloughs.

Washington, D. C. Jonathan H. Custer,  
Selective Service.

Region I Richard E. Davidson, SS;  
Francis X. Kenny, SS; Rodney L. Slifer,  
SS; John W. Thomas, 1st Lt. Engr-Res.

Region II Lewis J. Bowen, 1st Lt. FA-  
Res, John W. Calhoun, 1st Lt. Inf-Res;  
Norman J. Cranford, 1st Lt. Engr-Res;  
William Pendleton Elam, 1st Lt. Inf-Res;  
Walter R. Reynolds, 1st Lt. CA-Res.

Region III Herbert W. Billing; Epstein  
McClellan, 1st Lt. FA-Res.

Region IV Frank Bednarek, 1st Lt. FA-  
Res, Vincent T. Bergschneider, 1st Lt. FA-  
Res; Beyrl E. Howard, 1st Lt. Inf-Res;  
Clayton A. Seawright, SS, John H. Stewart;  
Norris P. Swanson; Robert L. Thigpin, 1st  
Lt. Inf-Res, Frederick L. Wheeler.

Region V Clyde E. Bay, 1st Lt. Inf-  
Res; Charles F. Buchmayer; Lawrence B.  
Dankbar; Carl A. Elsea, 1st Lt. Engr-Res;  
J. Ivan Fredregil, 1st Lt. Ord-Res; Fran-  
cis W. Kittinger, Hubert E. Losinski,  
Eugene W. McGaan; Francis Marion Phillips.

Region VI. John R. Allen; George B  
Morgan, Jr.

Region VII Earle F. Stone.

Region VIII Rudolph Carnegie, SS;  
Roy H. Meiners; Julian J. Turner, Capt  
Inf-Res.

Region IX. Warren A. Starr, Capt CA-  
Res.

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## "FOOD FOR FREEDOM" GARDENS IN REGION 2

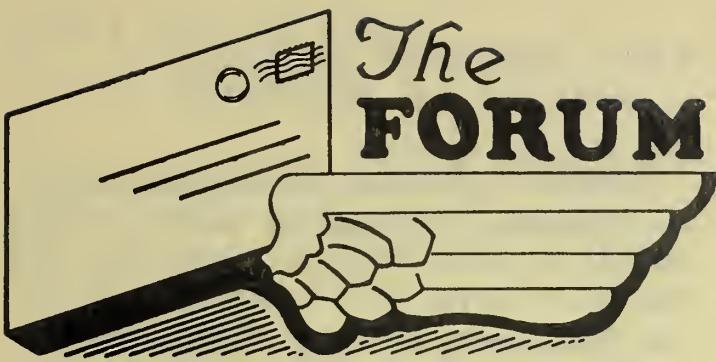
Plans to step up the production of food "for freedom" and give the small southern farmer a healthier diet have been put into effect by Conservator Tom Buie in Region 2. All SCS farm plans in the region are now expected to provide for the production of adequate food for all persons living on the farm and sufficient feed grain, forage, and pasture--for all farm stock. Emphasis is to be placed, Buie reports, on increased production of the foods most needed for defense--at the present time, poultry and dairy products, although as a standing policy farm plans will be expected to make provision for farm gardens, orchards, hogs, cows, bees, and even farm fish ponds if they are practicable.

Buie's program was developed at a meeting of state coordinators and extension soil conservationists, during which definite recommendations were drawn up and transmitted to all farm planning personnel in the region. In connection with these recommendations, it was pointed out that many southeastern and southern farms have small patches of good land not well located for field crops which would be excellent for gardens and orchards, and that other small additional areas, particularly on those where scattered trees occur, can be used profitably for pasture and hay production. Recommendations also call for soil building practices, intensive rotations and proper protection of the soil.

The Region 2 program represents a positive contribution to the national defense effort to step up production of dairy products, poultry products and other foods now urgently needed in connection with both the national defense and our aid to Britain policy.

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Region X Anson M. Averell, 1st Lt  
Ord Res, Myron E. Phinney, Homer J. Stock-  
well, 1st Lt. CA Res, Charles W. Thomas,  
1st Lt. Ord Res



I notice on the last page of June issue a notice to the effect that "The Library is now receiving the monthly publication called The Land," etc.

Would it not be more in order to suggest that this publication is worthy of support of all Service personnel and recommend that each make individual subscription?

W. S. W.

(Reckon it would. Ed.)

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#### DISTRICT FARMERS PLAN FARMS AT NIGHT SCHOOL.

At the request of vo ag teachers in the Reelfoot Creek (Tenn.) soil conservation district, SCS technicians assisted the teachers in conducting evening schools for adult farmers. A typical farm in each school area was selected and planned jointly by Service technicians and the vo ag teachers. This farm plan was presented to the adult farmers in four night classes, again jointly, by the SCS and vo ag's. Plans are under way to develop these meetings next fall into group farm planning sessions, with the help of Smith Hughes teachers.

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Region 2 has announced a series of National Defense Meetings which will be held in the CCC camps. Meetings began on July 7 and are being conducted in each State within the region by the assistant chiefs of regional CCC operations.

#### SAFETY CONSCIOUSNESS PART OF DEFENSE WORK

Edwin Freyburger, Chief of Region 5 Engineering Division, makes an appeal to regional personnel for safety consciousness as a matter of national defense patriotism. Mr. Freyburger's comments on "Safety in Engineering Planning," which first appeared in a regional bulletin, seem so important we want to pass them on to all SCS personnel.

"Now, more than at any time in the last twenty years, we need to execute every job with the greatest possible efficiency. With engineers and skilled or semi-skilled workmen leaving our Service at an increasing rate to participate in national defense work, every man remaining must perform more and more efficiently in order to keep soil conservation production up to the desired level.

"Accidents which occur during the course of a construction job slow up production through the temporary or permanent loss of trained or experienced individuals, the temporary loss of damaged equipment, and the diversion of the time of the engineer or other technicians to making investigations and preparing accident reports. All of these losses add to the cost of production. Time spent on planning to prevent accidents and avoid delays in production pays big dividends.

"The safe way can be said to be merely the right way. Whenever accidents occur on a job, you can be fairly sure that improper methods are being used and that a poor quality of work can be expected. Whenever you are planning the execution of a job, ask yourself what hazards are connected with your procedure, what you must do to guard against these hazards. Very often you may find that some other method may be not only cheaper but more efficient because the hazards are less and, therefore, less extraordinary measures will be needed for protection. We should always

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## CONSERVATION DRAINAGE PLAN ON SMALL WATERSHED

Twelve farmers in a small watershed in Page County, Iowa, have worked out a combined conservation-drainage plan in cooperation with the SCS-CCC camp at Shenandoah. The plan calls for adequate control of erosion on seven hill farms and prevention of silting and floods in the drainage ditch and lowland of five bottomland farms. It is the first such plan to be developed for a small watershed group in Region 3.

About 70 percent of the watershed, which comprises 1,400 acres, is cultivated. Cooperative agreements have been signed by all of the landowners. Erosion control measures to be applied on the 760 acres of hill land will include 8 miles of terraces, contour cultivation on all cropland, proper crop rotations, and seeding of steep land to pasture or permanent hay.

Three erosion control dams will be constructed. Two of these will be of the weir notch type to control gullies and to stabilize the upper part of the drainage ditch. The other will be an earth fill with a 3 x 3 foot drop inlet culvert, which will serve as a detention reservoir and help regulate the flow of water into the drainage ditch below.

The five bottomland farmers have granted perpetual easements to drainage right-of-ways, which are on file with titles to the land. The permanent easements will facilitate reconstruction and maintenance work regardless of changes in land ownership. The 12 cooperators are furnishing all equipment for cleaning out the drainage ditch and a share of the materials and labor for construction of the dams.

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H. H. Bennett has been notified that he has been appointed as an honorary member of the Canadian Conservation Association.

## COOL THOUGHTS ON SNOW SURVEYS IN NORTHWEST

George F. Dunning, Chief of the Regional Information Division at Spokane, tipped us off on some "history" connected with the snow survey trip which Frank Harper and Jack James, in charge of Regional Current Information and Visual Information Sections, made last spring and about which they tell in the lead article of the July issue of *Soil Conservation*.

The Oregon, Idaho, and Washington Farmers--periodicals reaching virtually every farm family in the Pacific Northwest--carried full-page articles about the snow survey work. The Portland Sunday Journal also featured a full rotogravure page about the trip. And now Universal is interested in filming a special news reel on snow survey work.

The men did pretty well considering they were novices in the art of snow travel. Mr. Dunning confides that "Although James had had some experience on skis and snow shoes, Harper had never before had either skis, snow shoes, or ice skates on his feet until he practiced up a bit with snow shoes on Mt. Spokane a couple of weeks before the trip. Thanks, though, to careful planning for several months ahead, and a thorough itinerary arranged by R. A. Work (in charge of SCS Snow Surveys in Oregon) the trip was made without further actual incident than a few sore muscles and a snow-slide scare or two."

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A recent item in Service News set G. H. Hatfield, Region 3 personnel head, to figuring. He discovered that as of January 2, 1941, Region 3 had 128 employees who were then on CCC rolls and who were formerly CCC camp enrollees. This represents approximately 22.7 percent of the total CCC personnel for the region. Moreover, it speaks well for CCC in the field of training, education, and development.

## SAFETY AND DEFENSE

(Continued from page 5)

remember that safety is an integral part of every job and that the cost of protection against hazards is a legitimate charge against it

"A contractor must distribute the cost of his accident insurance to his various jobs if he intends to realize a profit. However, we should not consider safety only on a dollar and cents basis. We have a deeper obligation, a human obligation to prevent any suffering and distress which go with accidents. A good workman on the job does as he is told in the way he is instructed to do it. He feels confident that we will not ask him to do any task which may incur an injury to him. We must merit that faith. Everyone wants to do a good job efficiently and economically. In the long run the safe way will have been found to be the most efficient and no more difficult in execution than other less desirable methods."

## CONSERVATION PAYS

(Continued from page 3)

Then Richards added in his letter

". . . The greatest effect of all has been in my peace of mind in not seeing gullies, sheet erosion, etc., in the fall and spring, which has a very demoralizing effect on one's ambition. The feeling that you know you are doing the job right is above dollars and cents value."

Such expressions of appreciation from practical farmers, appraising farm conservation work from practical standpoints and from the standpoints of personal satisfaction, are most valuable. All members of the field staff are urged to transmit promptly to regional headquarters and to Washington any similar instances that come to their attention. In doing so they will be rendering a tremendous service to the whole national conservation program.

## FIELD MEMORANDA

- 1012 Travel vouchers for cooperative employees. (Such vouchers must contain statement of previous total expenses during the year when cooperative agreement limits the amount which may be expended by Government for travel.)
- 1013 Temporary detail, James M Reynolds to position, Acting Head, Training Section.
- 904-M Military furloughs for special types of appointments. (Employees appointed under Schedule A-1-6 or under Schedule A-IX-1(a) to positions which are not classified as "temporary" are entitled to restoration upon return from military service.)
- 904-O Second registration under Selective Service Act. (Employees who have reached the age of 21 since Oct 16, 1940 and are subject to registration will be excused from regular duties to register on July 1, 1941.)
- 872-D Political activity. (Amendment to Personnel Circular No 84.)
- 843-B Final salary payment report. (Form SCS-17, Final Salary Payment Report, to be used in determining final payment of salary to any employee furloughed, suspended or separated from the Service.)
- 1014 Timekeeping records and procedure. (Memo which supersedes FM 154 sets up new procedure for daily record of services performed by per diem or hourly rate employees.)
- 1015 Nursery cost accounting. (New cost schedule procedure is effective July 1.)

## PRINTERS' INK

"Timber Farmers Reaping Income" by Frank B. Harper, head of Region 9 Current Information Section, in the May 22 issue of *Washington Farmer*. Mr. Harper has also written an article on "Fenced Pastures to Replace Herding" which appears in the June *National Wool Grower*.

"White Trash and Fanatics" by Angus McDonald, Washington information specialist, in the spring issue of *The Land*

"Sphagnum for Seed Germination Prevents Damping-off Losses on Unsterilized Soil" by Claude Hope, V. T. Stoutemyer, and A. W. Close in the June *Southern Florist and Nurseryman*.

"South Carolina Farmers Take Over Soil Conservation Job" by T. S. Buie, Regional Conservator, in the 50th anniversary edition of *The State*, Columbia, S. C., published June 25.

*North Dakota Outdoors* in its February issue featured a two-page spread on "Wild life Conservation in North Dakota." Centered in the spread is an article on "Tree Planting in the Soil Conservation Service" by Adrian C. Fox, area biologist.

"\$2,000,000 in Kudzu Crowns" by E. Y. Bailey, Region 2 agronomist, appears in the July *Progressive Farmer*.

Carl B. Brown, head of the Reservoir Sedimentation Section of the Sedimentation Division, Washington, addressed the Toronto (Canada) convention of the American Water Works Association on June 23 at which time he presented a paper on "Factors in Control of Reservoir Silting." Mr. Brown's paper is published in the June issue of the *Journal of the American Water Works Association*. A similar article by Mr. Brown on "Reservoir Silting and the Factors of Importance in Silting Control" appears in the June issue of *Water Works and Sewerage*.

## OFF THE PRESS

Twelve articles on conservation which have appeared in *Soil Conservation* have been translated into Spanish and reissued under the title "Metodos Modernos Para Conservacion de Suelos en Puerto Rico." Unnumbered publication

"Erosion and Related Land Use Conditions on the Presque Isle Demonstration Project, Maine" by W. B. Oliver and C. W. Frutchey, Erosion Survey No. 19

## PROJECT MONOGRAPHS

The following project monographs have recently been sent to the Library and are available for loan:

### Region 5

- No. 3 Fulton demonstration project, Fulton, Missouri.
- No. 2 Honey creek watershed, Kahoka, Mo.
- Wis. 3 Chimney rock project, Independence, Wis.

### Region 6

- Col. 4. Smoky Hill river project, Cheyenne Wells, Col.

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"Mapping Lake Mead" in the July issue of *Geographical Review* by Carl B. Brown, head of Reservoir Sedimentation Section at Washington, recounts the results of the SCS survey of Lake Mead in 1935

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William R. Van Dersal of the Biology Division is the editor of the Wildlife Society's news organ, *Wildlife News* which recently made its debut. The newsy little periodical includes on its staff two other members of SCS - Sydney Franklin of Region II as Field Editor for the Southeast and F. C. Edminster of Region I as a member of the editorial board.